



The Ames Intelligencer

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Ames Heritage Association To Help Save Historic Book

The Ames Heritage Association will finance the restoration and preservation of materials in an almost half-century old scrap book compiled by long-time City Clerk A. B. Maxwell and given to the Ames Public Library.

The preservation project will be done by John Kuhl assisted by selected fellow Boy Scouts under the direction of Ivan Hanthorn, conservation specialist with the Iowa State University Library staff; and George Scheetz, of the Ames Public Library staff.

Most of the materials in the rapidly deteriorating scrap book will be used to produce a photo copy to be bound and preserved in the Ames Public Library collection. It will be produced to be as permanent as possible. Materials remaining from the original book will be placed in acid-free boxes to be preserved as long as possible.

The book, put together during Dr. Maxwell's final years, contains photographs, clippings, documents and other materials including an introduction by Dr. Maxwell. The book furnishes something of an over-view of his many years of experience as an Ames doctor and city official.

Dr. Maxwell first became town clerk in 1889 but left in 1897 to complete his medical education. While in medical practice after his return to Ames he resumed the clerk's duties. He quit his practice in 1917 to become full time clerk and auditor. He resigned as clerk in 1934 but served as historian for six additional years.

During his time in office Dr. Maxwell watched the town grow from 1,200 to 12,000. He helped outline



Boy Scouts start work to conserve materials in a deteriorating scrap book compiled by A. B. Maxwell, who became Ames city clerk in 1889. Standing are John Kuhl, who originated the project; George Scheetz, Ames Public Library staff; and Andy Venier. Seated are Ivan Hanthorn, Iowa State University staff; and Joe Kuhl.

plans for the city manager form of government, and he saw the first municipal electric plant constructed. He died in 1941.

The book project has been undertaken by Kuhl as a step toward achieving Eagle rank in the Boy Scouts by demonstrating his ability to lead and organize a major project. Kuhl, 14, and a student at Central Junior High School, has been a Scout for three years. He belongs to Troop 196. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kuhl, 2313 Broadmoor Avenue.

As a demonstration of his leadership, Kuhl will select fellow Scouts responsi-

ble enough to contribute to the project. Only six Scouts will help at a time. Probably about 12 boys will be involved.

In developing the project, Kuhl not only sought help from Iowa State University Library and Ames Public Library staff members, but also asked aid or approval from Boy Scout leaders, the Ames Public Library Board and from Ames Heritage Association members.

The Ames Heritage Association Board at its December meeting appropriated an amount not to exceed \$100 to finance the project.

The Ames Intelligencer

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Ames Heritage Association

1523 Curtiss Avenue

Ames, Iowa 50010

F. Terrill Adams, president

Work Starts on History Project

Mrs. Dorothy A. Schwieder, author and member of the Iowa State University Department of History faculty, outlined methods of oral history interviewing before the oral history committee of the Ames Heritage Association on Nov. 16.

That session was the opening activity of a committee that plans to conduct and record a number of interviews with individuals considered to have a rich store of Ames information. A list of persons considered to have such rich recollections is being assembled and will be expected to continue to grow.

The recorded interviews, made for the most part with older residents, will be permanently preserved as an Ames history resource, and they will be available for general use.

One specific use for the collection of recorded interviews is as a resource for writing a definitive history of Ames, a project that its promoters think will take at least five years. Materials from the tapes should provide important information and details to add to what can be learned from such standard resources as newspaper files and other published materials, school, city and county records, church, social and business records and other sources.

Members of the oral history committee are F. Terrill Adams, Farwell T. Brown, Bess Ferguson, Rodney Fox, Ruth Hamilton and Leland Himan.

The first interview for the oral history project has been completed with Harold Loughran, who finished at Ames High School in 1919 and now lives in Des Moines. He was born in the original Octagon House, early Ames home, later an art gallery. He was the son of Tom Loughran, long-time Main Street druggist. The interview concerned his boyhood in Ames and was conducted by Farwell T. Brown.

Jaunty Old Hoggatt School Beckons to Children, Adults

The 1861 Hoggatt school, jaunty with the vigour of renewed youth, stands ready to welcome visitors, especially school classes.

The historic schoolhouse, first in Ames, already has been host to more than 1,000 visitors within its aged walls since the completion of its restoration last spring. They have come mostly in groups, including many grade school classes, but many individuals have visited during open houses.

A number of grade school classes accompanied by their teachers have enjoyed classes in the renewed pioneer school with its wood-burning stove, its 1861 flag, its water bucket and its oak desks. Several adult groups have met in the little room.

Perhaps typical of uses made of the old building by schools were all-day sessions conducted there by Jay Sinsler with Fifth Grade Edwards School classes. Children brought dinnerpail lunches as nearly as possible like those eaten in 1861, an assistant teacher dressed in period costume, students studied read-

ing, arithmetic and geography from old texts, and they played in the school yard needing somebody to teach them century-old games.

Teachers, chairpersons and others interested in making reservations to use the old schoolhouse may do so by calling 232-6467, the Meeker school office, between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. A representative of the Ames Heritage Association will unlock the old school, open the shutters and build a fire in the stove.

The school is on Burnett Avenue at 18th Street on a portion of the Meeker school grounds.

During January letters will be sent to neighboring school districts especially inviting them to bring classes to visit the pioneer building built as a township school before an Ames school district was organized.

Hoggatt School Adds Woodshed

A small woodshed — for storage of fuel, never as a place to discipline recalcitrant boys — is under construction at the rear of historic Hoggatt school.

The 4 by 6 foot structure, constructed from weathered barn boards, will be left unpainted to give it an aged appearance consistent with the history of the old schoolhouse. The boards were provided by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brueck, route 2, Ames. The shed is partially sheltered by a clump of trees and shrubs.

Persons who have contributed labor for construction of the shed include Robert Reichardt, Earl Holtz, Farwell T. Brown and Herbert Hatch.

Still wanted and needed as flooring are some old wooden blocks once used as Main Street pavement and reported stored in Ames or Nevada. Anyone knowing about such blocks is requested to call Farwell Brown, 232-9444.

Gossard Memorial

The Thomas L. Gossard Memorial Fund has been contributed to the Ames Heritage Association for uses to be determined later.

The \$222.50 fund was donated by family and friends following the death of Mr. Gossard last spring.

Mr. Gossard was the grandson of Sarah Jane Emery, first teacher in the Hoggatt School, and he was deeply interested in the preservation and restoration of the building.

School Portrayed

A painting of Hoggatt school has become one of a series of pictures of Ames historical places executed by Gretchen Coy and exhibited recently at the Iowa State University Memorial Union.

The artist has served on the Ames Beautification Board, the Lincoln Highway Historical Association Board, and has been the recipient of a number of awards.



This splendid brougham still sparkles even in this faded photograph taken on Ames' Main Street in 1889. Stage coaches had disappeared from this area by the 1870's.

Coaches Yield to Railroads

By Farwell T. Brown

Stage coach travel in Iowa reached its height in the 1850's, but by the time Ames was incorporated in 1870 the railroad had taken over. It was in that year that the Western Stage Lines of Des Moines, the last of the major Iowa companies, discontinued operations.

Stages were serving this area, however, when the Farm House was built in 1860 on the campus of the Iowa Agricultural College, and there were established routes from Des Moines to most of the early villages of Central Iowa.

In 1863 when John I. Blair with Congressman Oakes Ames and a small survey crew traveled across Iowa "eye balling" a proposed route for the railroad, they traveled by train as far as Marshalltown then by stage as far as Boone. Their route would have taken them to Bloomington, just northeast of present Ames, then across the Skunk River to what is now the north part of Ames. Very likely they made a stop at the Farm House, continuing then on west over the wooded ridges in the vic-

inity of Woodland or Oakland Avenues of our present city.

In 1941, local Boy Scouts obtained permission from the county supervisors to designate the road running north from Thirteenth Street and just east of Skunk River as Stage Coach Road, a designation maintained today by present residents of that area.

While cross-country stages had passed from the Central Iowa scene by the 1870's, horse drawn conveyances like the fancy limousine brougham seen in the accompanying Ames photo dated July 2, 1889, were in use much longer.

This picture, taken in front of the Nichols Livery at the east end of Ames' Main Street, was the "Cadillac" of its day. This one would have been used by some local leading citizen — perhaps the president of the college. Also it probably would have been seen in funeral processions and parades. The more common conveyance, often called a Hack, had its counterpart in the horse drawn school buses still in use in central Iowa in the 1920's.

Students visiting the old Hoggatt school now can experience quaint methods of learning by doing sums and writing exercises on slates.

RENEWALS DUE

The Ames Heritage Association seeks renewal of 1984 membership dues in January and would welcome new members, too.

The Association needs funds from membership payments if it is to reach its 1984 goals. To maintain itself as an active and permanent force, the Association needs the moral support of a large and loyal membership.

Funds are needed for several specific and for general uses:

- Maintenance and further restoration of the 1861 Hoggatt school.
- Replacement of the inadequate stove and the addition of more oil lamps to make evening meetings in the school comfortable.
- Promotion of the use of the old school.
- Support of the oral history program to preserve Ames history and eventually to serve as a resource for the development of a definitive Ames history.
- Provide space for storage and display of artifacts and materials as an initial step toward establishment of an Ames museum.

To help keep the Ames Heritage Association strong and progressive, please renew your membership and, if possible, bring new members into the organization.

Annual membership dues are: Regular, \$5; Business and Organization, \$25 or more; Sustaining, \$100. Life membership is \$1,000.

Make checks payable to Ames Heritage Association and send them to:

Rodney Fox, secretary
1523 Curtiss Avenue
Ames, IA 50010

Please enroll me as a 1984 member of Ames Heritage Association. I enclose \$ _____.
Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



This "Golden Corn" medallion recently was given to the Ames Heritage Association by Gerald D. Allen of Des Moines. The Ames Commercial Club later became the Ames Chamber of Commerce.

Medallion Recalls Commercial Club

A "Golden Corn" medallion once owned by his grandfather has been given to the Ames Heritage Association by Gerald D. Allen of Des Moines.

The grandfather was A.C. (Gus) Allen, a long-time farmer near Rockwell in Cerro Gordo County.

An aunt of Gerald Allen's recalls the possibility that the token was distributed at a local celebration known as "Corn-Hog" Days. It might have been given away by a seed corn or other agricultural business.

A search of newspaper files finds the Ames Commercial Club sponsoring boy's Corn club contests as early as 1915. On Nov. 2nd of that year the Story County 'Acres Corn Club' boys - twenty-two in number - were entertained on the Iowa State College campus and at noon were taken to the Ames Hotel where the Ames Commercial Club had arranged a dinner.

The Commercial Club later became the Ames Chamber of Commerce. An exact date for that change has not been determined. Perhaps someone can tell us more about this interesting medallion — and perhaps about the Ames Commercial Club and when it became the Ames Chamber of Commerce.

Early Resident Recalls Old Names

A century-old former Ames resident last spring sent from her California home words of appreciation to The Ames Intelligencer for bringing her information about early days in Ames.

Mrs. Anna (Roland) Van Duzer expressed her pleasure in a letter written by her son, Kenneth R. Van Duzer, 910 No. Pacific Street, #43, Oceanside, CA., 92054.

Mrs. Van Duzer's parents came to America from Norway in 1868 in a four-masted ship. From New York they wandered westward until they found and liked Ames. Anna was one of 12 children.

Anna attended school in Ames and became a bookkeeper. Later she married a farmer whose dairy herd supplied milk to the then young institution now Iowa State University. Later the family moved to Chicago.

His mother's memories of growing up in Ames still are vivid, her son wrote. "She recalls the Fitzpatrick, Hoggatt and Gossard families," he wrote.

She also remembers attending the South Side School where Myrtle Lanning was the first grade teacher. Miss Hattie Fitzpatrick taught the fourth grade and Bill Gossard had the eighth grade.

She has pleasant memories of fishing with her brother, Joe, in the mill pond at Soper's mill about the year 1893. She

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Talk Slated for Annual Meeting

Ivan Hanthorn, conservation specialist with the Iowa State University Library, will discuss the preservation of historical records materials at the annual meeting of the Ames Heritage Association Tuesday, Jan. 10, at Meeker School at 7:30 p.m.

The annual election of officers will be held and reports and reviews of the Association's activities will be presented.

Mr. Hanthorn's talk will concern preservation of personal records and documents such as family papers as well as the proper care and storage of institutional materials. He will display examples of paper conservation work including storage materials.

As an Iowa State University undergraduate, Mr. Hanthorn interested himself in art, chemistry and history, all of which he considers of value to him in his full-time conservation job at the library. He moved into that job from a graduate program in history.

He has worked or studied at the National Archives, the Manitoba Provincial Archives and the University of Alabama.

Anyone interested is cordially invited to attend.

said the mill was still there but had been closed for a time. This location on Skunk River was a popular swimming and picnic area in the early days.

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